

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Flyers:

None

Contacts:

Social/Emotional Hotline: 732-810-3146.

District technology issues: techstaff@freeholdboro.k12.nj.us

Reentry Plan for September 2020:

The district has been closely reviewing the New Jersey Department of Education Restart and Recovery Plan, a 104-page document providing guidance on how to reopen schools in the Fall. Initially we have been working with our administrators and teachers, but will soon be expanding the composition of the committee participants per the established guidance.

As outlined in the guidance, we will work to have our Freehold Boro reentry plan to parents no later than 30 days prior to the start of school. This means the plan should be to you by Friday, August 7th. This plan will show how we intend to run the school day, the mix of in-school and virtual work, and the restrictions we will operate under based on the then current guidance from the Governor. From this parents and guardians can begin to plan their logistical arrangements for the new school year.

Prior to that day, we expect to send you some survey questions to get feedback from you on some of the various issues we are grappling with.

The guidance requires us to maintain social distancing and sets 6ft as the standard. That would restrict us to have just about 20% of the students in school at any one time. But the plan also allows for some flexibility. If we require students to have face coverings, we can have the students closer than 6ft, and then we can have a greater percentage of students in the school at any one point. Clarifications that have arrived from the NJDOE just this week have confirmed that we would not be required to also have barriers if spaced less than 6ft. We now have more options to work with. This is the context under which our Reentry Committee is presently doing its work

Meanwhile, the district has been proactive in securing the key supplies that will be needed in this new normal. This includes the proper cleaning and disinfecting agents, personal protective equipment (PPE), disinfecting wipes, and hand sanitizer. We have also placed on order thermal imaging equipment, similar to that used in airports and hospitals, that can screen 60-80 individuals a minute as they enter the school for elevated body temperatures. Any individual showing elevated body temperatures on the thermal imagers would be diverted to the nurse to have a more precise temperature check. In this way we would be reasonably certain that no student or staff member in the building would be running a temperature, and we would be able

to do this without overly delaying our arrival procedures. We will outline more of the details on this part of the plan later.

A key part of the plan is that we must be prepared to revert to full virtual instruction if at any point local or statewide guidance demands it. For our students next year, we know our 3rd through 8th graders already have their Chromebooks and/or wifi because they have retained the devices we issued this past year. As we start 2020-2021, we will need to plan for the deployment of Chromebooks to our 1st and 2nd graders, and iPads to our Pre-K and Kindergarten students.

The reentry plan requires that we address a wide range of issues. I have covered only a few here. But know that we have our best district talent engaged on the task, and that the prime objective will be the health and safety of the students and staff. With that assured, we will work to move instruction forward, coming up with the best instructional plan we can within the restrictions imposed. Once we have further framed the issues, we will also be seeking your input to help inform the planning process, mindful to meet our deadlines for promulgation of our plan to the school community.

Surely these are difficult times. But we have a very strong faculty that has worked closely together for years. They know our students and are committed to their safety and education. We maintain open communications within our district, both among the staff and with our wider school community, to address any problems. The planning problems we face to reopen in the Fall are not easy, but can be solved.

We will be ready to reopen safely.

Next Two Weeks:

Mon, Jul 6: Food distribution 9am-12noon

Mon, Jul 6: Start summer programs virtually (ESY, 21st Century, Title III)

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Tue, Jul 7:

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Wed, Jul 8: Food distribution 9am-12pm, rear of PAC

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Thu, Jul 9: FIS mini graduations 9am, 10:30am, 1pm, 2:30pm (by invitation)

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Fri, Jul 10: Food distribution 9am-12pm, rear of PAC

Mon, Jul 13: Food distribution 9am-12noon

Mon, Jul 13: BOE meeting (virtual) 7pm

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Tue, Jul 14:

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Wed, Jul 15: Food distribution 9am-12pm

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Thu, Jul 16: Genesis rollover, all student sent to 2020-2021 schools/grades

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Fri, Jul 17: Food distribution 9am-12pm, rear of PAC

Please enjoy the July 4th weekend.

Thank you.

Rocco Tomazic
Superintendent

